(b) if not, how long is it since the Panchayat has ceased to function;

(c) why there is delay in the election of members from Kattakampal village?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) No answer is necessary in view of answer to (a).

(c) The election was first notified to be held on 18th Chingam 1110. The Tahsildar (Presiding Officer) could not conduct the election on that day on account of work at Headquarters. It was then notified to be held on 23rd Karkadagam 1110. On that day the names of the candidates were taken down. As there were 4 candidates poll was put off to 18th Kanni 1111. The election could not be conducted on that date as there was no body to take charge of the Treasury from the Tahsildar. The election was held later on 6th Thulam 1111.

Mr. T. C. Iyyukkutty.—With reference to the answer to sub division (c) do not the Government realise the inconvenience felt by the public in having the Tahsildars as presiding officers?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—Government think that the best person to conduct the Panchayat elections is the Tahsildar.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Hon'ble Member for Public Health and Panchayats kindly inform the House whether I am right in thinking that 14 full months was necessary for the election to a particular Panchayat to take place owing to the inconvenience of this Tahsildar?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—18th Chingom 1110 is a mistake for 18th Mithunam 1110. The election took place on the 6th of Thulam 1111. So there was only 4 months' time.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.—When such elections have to be put off, will the Government be pleased to consider the possibility of notifying beforehand that the election will not take place on the day fixed?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—The Government will consider this question.

Panchayat wells—scarcity of water.

250. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

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(a) whether there is a general complaint that the majority of Panchayat wells contain no water in the summer months;

(b) how many Panchayat wells there are in the Atat, Killannur and Kolazhi villages;

(c) in how many of these wells there was water at all last summer?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—(a) There is no such complaint.

(b)	Atat	1
	Killannur	2
	Kolazhi	2

(c) There was water in all the wells except in one in Killannur village.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Was there water in the wells for all the months of the year?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—There may not be plenty of water; but the requirements of the people could be met.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Was there a drop of water in the well at Atat in the month of Dhanu last?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—As far as my information goes there was water.

Mr. P. Raman Menon.—I have seen that well with my own eyes. There was not a drop of water in it. I would request the Government that the wells should contain water and it is no use of having wells alone.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Is there water in the well at Vannamadai?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon.—I want notice.

Public tank for Avanoor and Thangaloor Villages.

251. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there is any public tank worth the name in the contiguous villages of Avanoor and Thangaloor;

(b) whether the inhabitants of those villages and the Panchayatdars of the place have not petitioned the Registrar of Panchayats for a tank at "Vellachall;"

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